

## PNN Endorsements & Recommendations for Voting in the 2021 General Election

Justice is truly on the Ballot in this election. There are critical appellate court positions on the ballot – these statewide judges make important decisions that affect every aspect of our lives and are often our last resort to protect our civil, criminal, and constitutional rights. Yet many do not vote in this historically low turnout election. Your vote is important and can make a difference.

Philly Neighborhood Networks makes its endorsements and recommendations based on a long process of candidate's questionnaires and interviews that began in the Spring Primary, members' polling, further investigation and research, consultation with other progressive groups in the city, and deliberation by our Executive and Steering Committees. Whether you are voting by mail or in-person on Nov 2nd, please consider these endorsements and recommendations.

### **PNN ENDORSEMENTS & RECOMMENDATIONS**

#### **FOR THE 2021 GENERAL ELECTION**

- \* PA SUPREME COURT – MARIA MCLAUGHLIN – Democrat
- \* PA SUPERIOR COURT – TAMIKA LANE - Democrat
- \* PA COMMONWEALTH COURT – LORI DUMAS & DAVID LEE SPURGEON - Democrats
- \* COURT OF COMMON PLEAS – All are unopposed Democrats and are excellent candidates that PNN endorsed in the Spring primary and deserve your vote:
  - NICK KAMAU
  - WENDI BARISH
  - CATERIA MCCABE
  - BETSY WAHL
  - CHRIS HALL
  - MICHELLE HANGLEY
  - DANIEL R SULMAN
- \* MUNICIPAL COURT – GREG YORGEY-GIRDY - Democrat
- \* DISTRICT ATTORNEY – LARRY KRASNER - Democrat
- \* CITY CONTROLLER – REBECCA RYNHART - Democrat

\* JUDICIAL RETENTIONS – NO RECOMMENDATIONS. The election system does not provide sufficient information on the individual judges' performance during their prior term in order to make an informed recommendation on retention.

\* **BALLOT QUESTIONS**

**QUESTION 1:** Should Philadelphia Recommend To The State Legislature That It Legalize And Tax The Sale Of, Recreational Use Of Marijuana For Persons 21 Or Older? **RECOMMEND YES.** There are simply no good reasons to criminalize the possession of marijuana, or ban it for persons 21 years of age or older.

**QUESTION 2:** Should The City Establish A Department Of Fleet Services To Manage All City Owned Vehicles? **RECOMMEND YES.** This consolidation has actually been in place already on a temporary basis, has worked well, and should be made permanent.

**QUESTION 3:** Should Civil Service Rules Be Changed To Allow The Personnel Director To Determine The Number Of People On An Eligible List For Hiring Or Promotion? **PNN TAKES NO POSITION.** There are differing views whether this change would increase diversity in the City workforce, with no compelling evidence one way or the other.

**QUESTION 4:** Should Council Be Required To Make A Mandatory Annual Appropriation Of .05% Of The General Fund To The Housing Trust Fund Every Year? **RECOMMEND YES**

While housing advocates view this as a significant positive change for the affordable housing movement, there are concerns about the Housing Trust Fund, accountability, and its administration to assure proper priorities. On balancing these factors, we recommend a yes vote.